

To His Excellency,

Thomas W. Veazey, Governor, and

The Honorable the Council of Maryland,

Gentlemen,

In obedience to the call which you made on me, under date of the 4th and 11th instants, and to enable you to inform the Honorable the House of Delegates, what progress "has been made in the revision of the laws, at what period that work will be completed, and its probable cost;" I most respectfully report, that when I accepted the office of Director of said digest, and proceeded to devise its form, preparatory to your appointing the Revisors, I believed that the work might and would be completed within two years from that date.

What the expense of the work would be, I did not know nor do I yet, but I do not doubt that the estimate recently made by the committee of ways and means is an ample one, and it may be proper, that I should here state that no expense has yet been incurred.

It having been made by the resolution which provides for said digest being prepared, the duty of the Director, firstly to divide the acts of Assembly into titles, and to assign one or more of these to each Revisor, to be revised, collected and digested; and subsequently to examine and make such corrections, and additional suggestions, as to said Director might appear proper; and because it was my wish that all such corrections and suggestions, should be submitted for the approbation of the Revisors respectively, and in such case, for their adoption, it appeared to me desirable, that the Revisors should continue their labours, after these were announced until my own might be quite closed.

And that, as my own toil must necessarily be far more extensive than theirs respectively, it seemed necessary, with due regard to proper economy, that I should make some progress in the work, before I should assign their several parts, or at least, that I should feel perfectly free to devote my whole time, for about two years, to this task; I have heretofore hoped that I might soon do this; but hitherto, I have been prevented more by the imperious and unforeseen obligations of different public duties, than by all of other causes; but now perceiving that I cannot give to this work the attention that it would require, within the period which ought to limit its completion, unless I neglected other absolute duties, public as well as private, I pray you to excuse me from that task; and to regard and accept this